

## LAND USE PATTERNS

Existing land use indicates that Maiden is tending toward an elongated development pattern rather than the more concentric form that is sometimes considered more "ideal" due to the convenience and shorter distances involved in the latter pattern. Obviously, the railroad was initially built along the "edge" of town and earlier development was from the railroad eastward, giving the elongated form to the town with the central business core almost all at one end. This shape has contributed to the more recent development with the result that numerous businesses are scattered along Main Street and US 321 highway as it enters town at the southeastern and northwestern corners. The railroad was also probably related to the past segregation of residential areas, with almost all of the Negro residents being located just west and south of the main part of town across the tracks. The town limit line is so aligned that many of these homes are still outside the town proper despite additions to the town through annexation in recent years.

The railroad will no doubt continue to be a problem by hindering the development of a central business district that is ideally compact and convenient to shoppers, but it is obvious that it is proving to be no real barrier to other uses. The high school was built west of it and an attractive residential section is growing up near the school. Some of the newest and largest industrial development is also taking place in the western end of town. Most residential areas are laid out nicely in small "neighborhoods", most with at least a grocery store and one or two other convenience-type businesses nearby. Industrial development appears to be orderly also, with almost all of the "large" employers being sufficiently set back from the main body of town with sufficient traffic arteries to prevent major